



stay in touch!

Whether you have problems with federal agencies, questions about legislation, or are learning about the service academies and other opportunities for students, **Congressman Gil Gutknecht and his staff are here to help you.**

Please feel free to also visit our website at **www.gil.house.gov**. You can sign up for Gil's electronic newsletter, the E-Line, or find station locations and times for Gil's weekly radio town hall meetings.

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"Through regular contact like my weekly radio show, I and my staff continue to focus on issues that matter most. Like you, we want results!"

-Congressman Gil Gutknecht



Top: Congressman Gutknecht learns firsthand about Minnesota's forestry industry during a tour of Superior National Forest. Bottom: Congressman Gutknecht listens to a constituent's concerns about our economic future.

Congressman Gil Gutknecht
First District, Minnesota

Renew. Revitalize. RESULTS.

2005: The Year in Review.

Dear Friends,

In many respects, 2005 was a difficult year. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ravaged the Gulf Coast while conflict continued in Iraq. Yet there is much to be thankful for. New Orleans is rebuilding, thanks to the help of ordinary citizens from the First District and all over America. Iraqi citizens voted in record numbers to elect their own leaders, a sign of real progress and a tribute to our men and women in uniform.

Meanwhile, Congress made some important decisions that will affect our lives as we begin 2006. I hope you will take the time to review this information and contact me with feedback and ideas.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,



Congressman Gutknecht introduces prescription drug market access legislation with his House and Senate colleagues.



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with agri-based ink.



Left: Congressman Gutknecht meets with a constituent during a town hall meeting in Rochester to discuss border security and illegal immigration. Right: Congressman Gutknecht listens to residents' concerns at the Mary Jane Brown Good Samaritan Center in Luverne.



“A goal is a dream with a deadline. My dream is energy independence through clean, renewable fuels produced right here in America.”

-Congressman Gil Gutknecht



Congressman Gutknecht speaks during a press conference honoring Gold Star Mothers – an organization comprised of mothers who have lost a son or daughter during service to our country.

ACCOUNTABILITY.

How I voted and why.

SUPPORTED: Strengthening Our Borders

The Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005 would reinforce deportations laws, end catch-and-release practices and enforce regulations on businesses who hire illegal immigrants. *(HR 4437 passed the House, 239-182, December 16, 2005)*

The Real ID Act of 2005 strengthens U.S. border security, helps stop terrorists from obtaining driver's licenses and reforms the asylum system. *(HR 418 passed the House, 261-161, February 10, 2005)*

SUPPORTED: Renewable Fuels

On November 17, 2005, I introduced HR 4357, the 10 by 10 Act, calling for 10 percent of our gasoline to be renewable fuel by 2010. This legislation would reduce our dependence on foreign oil, help protect the environment and cycle more money through our economy.

I also supported the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This bill would require a renewable fuels standard of 7.5 billion gallons of renewable fuel per year be used in the U.S. fuel supply by 2012. *(HR 6 passed the House, 275-156, July 28, 2005)*

SUPPORTED: Permanent Repeal of the Death Tax

The Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act of 2005 would permanently repeal the estate tax, which was set to expire in 2010. This legislation would save small business owners and family farmers from unfair burdens after the death of a loved one. *(HR 8 passed the House, 272-162, April 13, 2005)*

OPPOSED: Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA)

The Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) is an accord between the United States, five Central American nations and the Dominican Republic. I generally support trade bills, but this one weakens our position on immigration issues, diminishes our sovereignty by allowing trade negotiators to make policy and it effectively re-opened the Farm Bill. *(HR 3045 passed the House, 217-215, July 27, 2005)*

SUPPORTED: Deficit Reduction

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 will reduce the rate of growth of a number of government programs. The nation's growing deficit amounts to a generational transfer of wealth – today's youth will pay for the decisions we make now. This bill reforms student loans and Medicaid while updating welfare reform. *(HR 4241 passed the House, 217-215, November 18, 2005)*

SUPPORTED: Small Business Health Care

The Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2005 allows small businesses to join together through association health plans (AHPs) to purchase health insurance for their workers at a lower cost. The measure increases small businesses' bargaining power with health care providers, frees them from costly state-mandated benefits and should lower their overhead costs by as much as 30 percent. *(HR 525 passed the House, 263-165, July 26, 2005)*

SUPPORTED: United Nations Reform

The Henry J. Hyde United Nations Reform Act of 2005 addresses needed reforms at the UN. These include budget issues, prioritizing of programs, oversight and accountability, peacekeeping and human rights. *(HR 2745 passed the House, 221-184, June 17, 2005)*

SUPPORTED: Aid for Veterans

The Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006 appropriates more than \$70 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Taxpayer dollars for veterans' medical care has increased by 18 percent over the last two years – and much work remains to be done. *(HR 2528 passed the House, 425-1, May 26, 2005)*

SUPPORTED: Frivolous Lawsuit Reform

The Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 would prevent trial lawyers from “judge-shopping” – the selection of a specific court in order to find the most sympathetic judge to a given case. The legislation also provides a Consumer Class Action Bill of Rights. *(HR 516 passed the House, 270-114, February 17, 2005)*

OPPOSED: Resolution to Immediately Withdraw Troops from Iraq

In November of 2005, Representative John Murtha (D-PA) publicly called for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. His comments were praised by many on the Left. In response, House Republicans offered a resolution to do exactly that. The resolution was quickly and overwhelmingly voted down.

We must continue to press the Iraqis to take responsibility for their own security so our troops can come home. *(H. Res. 571 failed in the House, 403-3, November 18, 2005)*

There's always more info at www.gil.house.gov ▶